

May 21, 2014

Medical exam results are only valid for six months

Question: *My wife is getting ready to file an immigrant petition for me. I've heard that a medical exam is part of the process. Can I go to any doctor to get this done? Should I start this process now or wait until I have an appointment scheduled?*

Everyone who wants to immigrate to the U.S. must undergo a medical exam at an approved panel physician site. The medical exam involves a physical examination, a skin test and x-ray screening for tuberculosis, a blood test, and vaccinations. Depending on your medical history and the panel physician's evaluation, you may need to complete additional tests and treatment for untreated medical conditions before your medical exam can be completed.

Applicants may have the exam done by a panel physician either at Andrews Memorial Hospital in Kingston, or Fairview Medical Center in Montego Bay. These are the only sites authorized to complete medical exams for an immigrant visa application. Exams completed at other facilities after April 8, 2014 are not valid.

In order to schedule the medical exam, you must have an appointment letter for your interview from the Immigrant Visa Section of the Embassy. It is important that you wait until you have the letter before you schedule your medical exam, because the exam results are only valid for 6 months. If you complete the exam too early and your case requires further administrative processing, or the case is delayed because the file was not complete when it was submitted, you would have to redo the medical exam after 6 months, costing you unnecessary time and money.

In most cases, you will be able to schedule and complete your medical exam 10-15 days before your interview. If your medical exam requires more time to process due to additional screening, or if you are unable to schedule the exam before your interview, it is possible to go to the interview first, and send the medical exam in after you have completed it, so don't worry if the panel physician informs you that the exam cannot be completed before your interview date.

You can find out more about the medical exam, including what you need to bring to your appointment, on our website: <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/medicalexams.html>